



Segunda oportunidad

Jane Green , DOMINGUEZ RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ S.C; (Translator)

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Un grupo de amigos sentados alrededor de los restos de una cena. Botellas vacías se apilan junto a los recuerdos y las noticias. Tienen treinta y tantos años, no se han visto desde hace mucho y les gustaría haberse reencontrado por un motivo más feliz que el que los reúne: su amigo Tom ha fallecido y ellos están en torno a él para recordarlo y rendirle así homenaje. Sus vidas han cambiado desde que se encontraron por última vez. Paul está felizmente casado con Anna, pero no han podido realizar su deseo de tener niños. Saffron ha alcanzado su sueño de ser actriz y mantiene en secreto su relación amorosa con un conocidísimo actor. Por su parte, Olivia, la más tímida de la pandilla, se ha volcado en los animales del refugio que dirige, después de que su novio de toda la vida la abandonara. Por último, Holly está casada con el hombre perfecto, tiene dos hijos perfectos, vive en la casa perfecta... ¿o acaso no es así? La muerte de Tom es un duro golpe para estas cuatro personas, pero también les brinda la oportunidad de redescubrir el poder de la amistad y la fuerza para perseguir aquellos sueños que tanta importancia tuvieron en el pasado.

Segunda oportunidad Details

Date : Published November 26th 2010 by PLAZA & JANES (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Jane Green , DOMINGUEZ RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ S.C; (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition 382 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review Segunda oportunidad for online ebook

Nicolette says

Second Chance

By Jane Green (Penguin, Michael Joseph)

JANE Green has a profound insight into people's lives, relationships and loves, which she captures beautifully in Second Chance.

A group of old school friends are reunited 20 years later when Tom, the one in the group who kept in contact with all his mates, dies. After the funeral the four friends decide to keep in contact with each other.

I would not class myself as a chick lit fan but I became totally absorbed in the characters' lives and how they provided some much needed comfort through each other's personal dilemmas. The friends were amazed at how easily it was to pick up their friendship after so many years.

An un-put-down-able read. — Nicolette Scrooby

(Published in the Daily Dispatch on January 12, 2008)

Iyah says

***If you love the book, do not read this review.

You can, if you would try not to post rude comments.

There are some spoilers in this review so if you haven't read this book yet, please don't proceed reading this review.****

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This book is probably the worst piece of Literature I have ever read.

In fact, I am very much surprise that I was even able to finish it. I'm not narrow minded, but really, I don't see the point in this book. I don't even know how it became a New York Times Bestselling book.

It's crap. Nothing is likable in this book. There's just too much going on. The author tried to fit so many characters and so many dilemmas in one go. It would've been okay if the characters were at least likable or believable. But they were the opposite!!

I loathed Holly's character. She is the most ungrateful, discontented, flirt, childish, selfish and easy to get

character I have ever known. She has been complaining about her husband, Marcus (A very conceited lawyer). She says he changed her into someone she's not. She's not the fun, adventure loving and cool Holly anymore. She had been pondering about what her life could have been if she picked her best friend Tom over Marcus. Then she finds out Tom is dead. He died just recently on suicide bombing event. And She actually grieves, not because Tom was her best friend, but because Tom was the life she was not able to have. After years of being married, she admits to herself that Tom is her one true love and not Marcus. How self-centered could she be? Always thinking about herself, and about how life would have been for her.

That doesn't end there. She grieves and finds comfort from Tom's brother Will. Who she infatuated on immediately!!!! Like 4 seconds since crying on his shoulder! WTF!!! How much of a whore could she be? Then she sees this guy on secret, sleep with her husband all the while thinking it was Will, and she sleeps with Will. She acts like a teenager FGS!!!

This book is garbage. Don't even bother reading it.

In fact the two things that will make you like this book is,

- a.) if you're 40 years old and unhappily married, going through some midlife crisis.
- b.) your life is so boring, even a book as nonsense as this would thrill you.

Seriously, avoid this.

Lindsey Greto says

I'm about halfway through and just totally love it. I am not usually into "chick lit," but then again this book doesn't seem to fit in this category.

I've had a couple of issues with the editing of the book (found one paragraph that looks like it should have been taken out - there was basically the same paragraph down the page, just worded differently. Weird), but the story is really good. It's basically the Big Chill, but for some reason, I identify with these characters a lot. Maybe because one of them - Holly - is like the bizarro-me.

Anyway, I recommend it to anyone.

CS says

I'm not sure what happened to Jane Green's writing craft in this book; the POV jumps wildly in and out of various character's heads, sometimes in the same sentence. The tense shifts from present to past and back. I suppose the effect is supposed to be one of sitting over a cup of tea with a good friend and having a gossip about other good friends. Only problem is, the book doesn't come with tea.

The story is Green's version of The Big Chill - a man dies (and why Green chose to make it a terrorist attack on US soil is beyond me; the means of death is very tangential to the story and a car accident would have served the exact same purpose) and his death serves as the impetus for his old school friends, who haven't

really seen each other in twenty years, to gather together.

They are your usual collection of stereotypes in reunion stories: the woman trapped in a loveless marriage; the happily married couple who can't conceive; the mousy one; the glamorous, alcoholic film star. No new ground is broken, although the familiar old tropes are trod on over and over.

Still, like all familiar things, there is comfort in visiting and Green's characters, if not highly original, are engaging.

Carolyn G. says

I was disappointed in this book. Firstly, there were so many characters introduced and I found that I only really cared about Holly. So much time was spent on the other characters and they really weren't all that interesting. Secondly, the HEA (happily ever after) at the end for Holly was really lacking. It seemed like the author just got tired of writing the book at the end and wanted to wrap it up with a relationship that was explained in just a couple paragraphs. The whole reunion scene at the end was not exciting to me either. Thirdly, what happened to Will? Who knows? I was totally falling for Will, too. I suppose the book was interesting enough for me to read the entire thing, but it was rather depressing. It really could have been better if the ending wasn't so dreadful.

Jen says

4 friends (Paul, Holly, Olivia & Saffron) are reunited after their friend Tom dies in a terrorist attack. These friends have not seen each other in 20 years, yet when they come back together they are able to bond and share their life stories.

Each of the 4 characters is likable and the reader can stay interested in the story lines of the characters.

Holly is a mother of 2; she adores her children, but is married to a man who she really doesn't love. Will she stay married for the kids sake, or will she get a divorce so she can try to be happy herself.

Paul and his wife Anna have been trying to have a baby with no sucess, even though they are happy in every other aspect of life. Will they become parents or will they have that void forever?

I really liked this book and I would actually like to read some more of Jane Green's novels.

Anna says

The second book I read in English.

I came across this book by chance when I was looking around at newspaper's at the airport. I just read into it and I found it interesting that the main characters are the same age as I am and they are all somehow rethinking and evaluating their lives, like I also often do.

Actually they used to be class mates or at the same form and they get together because one of their friends died abruptly. The very old friendships prove to be alive and partly because of losing such a close friend, partly because of their age and partly because of their life situations they start to reflect on their lives, which is much easier having close friends around you. I found it interesting that the characters are all in very different life-situations.

Kathryn says

This is a book about friendship - and truly great friends they all were. It is also about a marriage that is no longer viable, people looking for love and wanting to be their true selves. It is about loss too and the desire to have children and the difficulties with that. This one did not grab me like Summer Secrets did.

Amy Lyn says

Found this book predictable but enjoyable as the characters were real and the themes of death and divorce, universal.

Favorite passage about grieving:

"The problem with grief is that it doesn't go away. As time ticks on, the rawness dissipates somewhat, and you find yourself settling into the pain, becoming accustomed to it, wearing it around your shoulders like an old, heavy scarf....And life has to go on. There are children to look after, meals to cook, cards to illustrate, playdates to arrange. Grief has to be filed away, compartmentalized, allowed out only when the rest of your life is sufficiently organized when you can have time to yourself to give in to the pain."

Experiencing losing a friend this week, I thought, I don't have time for this feeling right now, I don't have the energy to feel this. I have things to do.

And on divorce:

"For this, she realizes, is why you lose friends when you get a divorce. ... because in getting divorced you force people to question their own marriages. And we never know what goes on behind closed doors. We may assume that our friends' marriages are strong and sacred, but when people listen to the reasons why you left and how you knew it was wrong, they realize that their own marriages aren't so strong. And if it can happen to you, then it can happen to them too."

Katie Uhlan says

I wanted to love this book. I read and loved Jemima J when I read it many years ago. This book had all the potential for a great story, but in many places it just fell flat. It got good and intriguing and I couldn't put it down about 200 pages too late. It starts out very slow and ended too predictably. I had such high hopes for this book and they just weren't realized.

Rachel says

The only reason I'm even writing a review for this book is to dissuade any of my friends who have it listed as a "to-read" to not bother. This book was a total disaster.

It is nearly impossible to keep up with the point-of-view shifts that seem to occur every other sentence. That, coupled with the tense shifts just drove me crazy. On top of all that, the characters were insipid parodies - let's see, we had the beautiful actress with an alcohol addiction, a mousy animal shelter worker who needs a relationship, a perfect couple who can't get pregnant and a bored housewife who long ago made the choice to give up on love and marry the wrong man... bleh! Don't waste your time - I'm a little angry that I did...

Tiffany says

I so rarely read books about ordinary people doing ordinary things, so it always gets to me when I realize that I actually enjoyed it very much. I think I had that experience with the first Green novel I read. The characters in the book are normally very down to earth, people you could imagine knowing at some point in your life. They typically have very ordinary problems that you don't think will make for a good read, but then they do, because they're so believable. It's honest to think that when you get to your forties, you will have problems similar to those the characters in the book faced. That being said, I did find the tragedy in the novel unnecessary, and the addition of his little brother into the mix kind of... Flat. One noted. Because essentially, his relationship with the basic main character (Holly's life is discussed the most throughout the book) isn't exactly important. One could argue that he allows Holly to break out of an unhappy marriage, but the truth is that it didn't have to be him, specifically. She could have had an emotional (and ultimately physical) relationship with anyone and it would have been the same deal. The only thing that the tragic death did was allow these friends to get back together with one another, but it wasn't ultimately necessary...

Still though, I did actually enjoy the story and while I am quite a bit younger than the characters in the book, I feel like it's an honest description of possible life scenarios.

Alan says

This book starts out as a British version of "The Big Chill" but goes downhill pretty fast.

We are introduced to all the main characters in the opening scene. They were school friends who went their separate ways and reunited when another friend dies in a terrorist attack.

So we have Holly, trapped in an unhappy marriage to Marcus, a vain, snobbish, selfish lawyer. The author devotes many pages throughout the book to demonstrating how vain, snobbish and selfish Marcus is. Oh, did I forget to tell you? He's vain, snobbish and selfish.

Next is Saffron, a B-list Hollywood actress with alcoholic tendencies having an affair with P -- "the sexist man in the world." Except that P can't marry Saffron because he's married to someone else and it would be bad for his career. (Didn't stop Tom Cruise).

There's Olivia who likes dogs more than people, has a one-night stand with a hunky American and gets pregnant.

Paul is a journalist married to super-Swedish businesswoman Anna who would like to have children but can't get pregnant. Oh the possibilities for plot development that little contradiction offers.

This collection of clichés (sorry, I mean characters) falls in and out of bed with each other and others, goes to weddings and funerals, gets pregnant, gets drunk, gets depressed, gets high, gets low ... gets this, that and the

other ...until the book ends with everyone living happily ever after and buying lots and lots of fabulous clothes and never getting wrinkles.

I honestly don't like giving books poor reviews and I have nothing against books about unhappy marriages and adultery (Anna Karenina and Madam Bovary examined this territory rather effectively, after all). I would rather give five stars to all the books I read because I know how hard it is to write a book, how much effort and heartache and emotional investment goes into it.

But really, don't people write books with real characters and real plots any more? The writing here is so wooden and pedestrian it's hard to describe. Characters are introduced solely so that they can say things about other characters. Then they disappear and we never see them again. At the end of the book, Holly suddenly falls in love with someone else who we never meet at all. Sarah, the widow of the friend who dies, is inconsolable -- depressed, shattered, bereft. She just disappears from the book. Does she live, die, recover, marry a space alien? We're not told.

I guess writers are only as good as readers demand them to be. If this kind of stuff sells, there's no incentive for the author to do better or her editors to demand better. We, the reading public, get the books we deserve. But surely we don't deserve this.

Stacy says

While I enjoy Jane Green's novels, usually, they are simply chick lit--something to pass the time while by the pool, on the beach, on a plane, or just at home on a rainy afternoon. However, this book (while certainly chick lit) falls into another category altogether. I think this is the first and only time that Jane Green's writing addresses real issues that women (and men) go through. The endings in the book aren't always happy and I like that. You don't know from page one, or even page 101, where the book is going to go. The characters are real, down to earth, funny, insightful and, most of all, human. I really, really enjoyed this book! It does remind me of the movie "The Big Chill" in that a group of friends reunites after one of their own dies, but that's where the similarities end. I highly recommend this book. In fact, I would even re read it. Kudos, Jane Green!

Linda Selbach says

I really didn't enjoy anything about this book. The only characters I even half-way liked were Anna and Paul. If you enjoy listening to someone whine continually about her husband (a man she choose to marry knowing how she felt about him) then this is the book for you. Otherwise I couldn't get past the selfishness and attitude problems of the characters. In reading other reviews this book is referred to as 'chick lit' and is a good one. I go back to my original foray into chick lit, which is Sophie Kinsella. That is good, silly, fun. This book seems like it's trying to justify adultery. Holly also throws around later in the book that she is afraid of her husband, which is really making light of spousal abuse. He might be rude, or overbearing, but at no time is there actual abuse. Being a 40 year old woman myself, I was embarrassed by the portrayal of women my age in this book. Grow up, put on your big girl pants, stop whining, and take responsibility for your own behavior is what I wanted to yell at the characters throughout the book.
